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4 April 1977

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]  
Office of the Comptroller

SUBJECT : Suggested Answers to the House Appropriations Committee's  
Follow-up Questions

*Jac,*

270-1. We staunchly deny that the conclusions of NIE 11-3/8-76, "Soviet Forces for Intercontinental Conflict," were in any way shaped by any political pressures generated as a result of the leak of the conclusions and recommendations of the B Team on Soviet Strategic Objectives. Those changes that were made in the final conclusions of NIE 11-3/8-76 as a result of the experiment in competitive analysis occurred when the B Teams were able to convince the A Teams that attendant uncertainties were such that the A Teams' proposed conclusions went beyond what the evidence would support. The 1976 Estimate took a moderately grimmer view of Soviet intentions. These changes were based on evidence; they would have been made whether or not there had been a B Team. Indeed, all these estimates since 1972 have taken a relatively grimmer view as the evidence on Soviet programs has accumulated.

275. Traditionally, NIEs have been considered the exclusive property of the Executive Branch. Though past DCIs have briefed Congressional committees on the conclusions of these estimates, copies were not turned over to Congress--until the Church Committee's investigation of the CIA. Since the establishment of the Senate Select Committee for Intelligence, Committee staff members have been allowed to read at CIA Headquarters those estimates which have not concerned US policy decisions still under consideration. We have not turned estimates over to the Committee for retention on the Hill. As for the papers the House Appropriations Committee member wishes to see, we will make them available to him on a day by day basis.

276. Admiral Turner has made no final decisions on his future approach to NIEs, but has the matter under active consideration. He has hired a new Deputy, Mr. Robert Bowie of Harvard, to oversee the preparation of these estimates and will wish to hear his recommendations. Admiral Turner is further discussing the question with the members of the National Foreign Intelligence Board to gain their views. Finally, the even larger question of how the Intelligence Community should be organized to produce national intelligence is under discussion in

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the high-ranking group that is preparing the response to Presidential Review Memorandum No. 11 on the Intelligence Community. Once these several discussions have been concluded, Admiral Turner will come back to inform the Congress of his considered approach.

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Executive Officer, DCI/NI

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